

# Should Professional Engineers Be Organized?

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In 1934 several engineers banded together to create an organization centered on the problems affecting the professional status of engineers. As a result, the National Society of Professional Engineers was organized to be concerned solely with the professional, social, and economic problems common to all engineers. This society conflicts in no way with technical societies, which are concerned primarily with the technological advancement of their particular branch of engineering.

Our society has set up the following objectives:

1. To encourage the enactment of uniform registration laws for professional engineers in every state.
2. To promote an active state society of professional engineers in each state.
3. To emphasize ethical conduct and proper practice within the profession.
4. To seek continued improvement in education of engineers.
5. To strive for breadth of interest and civic mindedness among members of the engineering profession.
6. To safeguard the interests of the engineer-in-training and to assist him in his efforts to qualify for registration as a professional engineer.
7. To secure public recognition for engineers in connection with their works.
8. To subscribe to the development of worthy engineering projects.
9. To secure full utilization of engineering services.
10. To restrict the practice of engineering to those competent to practice.
11. To encourage improvement in the methods of engaging engineering services.

12. To establish standards of equitable compensation for engineering services.
13. To enlighten the public as to the correct use of the designation "Engineer".
14. To initiate, promote, and support legislation in behalf of the engineer and to oppose any legislation tending to injure the interests of the profession.
15. To publish a national magazine devoted to the professional, social, and economic interests of engineers.

The Indiana Society of Professional Engineers, familiarly known as I.S.P.E., is a state organization of engineers who have legally qualified themselves as professional engineers and have been granted a license to practice in Indiana. Membership includes engineers in private and public practice—both employers and employees, representing all branches of the engineering profession. Because of the all inclusive scope of its membership, it is the one organization of engineers best fitted to represent the engineering profession as a whole.

Through local chapters already formed and others yet to be established, the entire state will be well covered by active and enthusiastic groups of professional engineers constantly seeking ways and means of improving the welfare of its members and the engineering profession. Through affiliations with the National Society of Professional Engineers, with headquarters in Washington, D. C., it is adequately represented on a national plane.

Local chapters are granted charters by the state society, and are wholly independent except as restricted by the constitution of the Indiana Society of Professional Engineers, under which they operate. Each local chapter is represented by one member on the executive board, the governing body of the I.S.P.E. The state organization elects a national director, or directors (depending upon the number of members) who, with the directors from the other member states, and the national officers, form a governing body of the national society. Every member in good standing has equal voice in the selection of the state officers and the national director or directors.

The engineering profession has suffered in the past because there was no single organization adequate to represent the entire profession. The National Society of Professional Engineers was organized in 1934 to fill this need, and has since spread through the formation of member state societies, such as I.S.P.E., into 22 states as well as into the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. These professional societies are the overall representatives of engineering as a profession, and concern

themselves primarily with the social, economic, and political status of the engineer as a professional man. Development of his technical knowledge, efficiency, and his creative skill is left to the founder societies and other technological organizations. This society came into being because of the crying need for one voice to speak effectively, forcefully and authoritatively for the integrated engineering profession on the professional plane.

The Indiana Society of Professional Engineers has accomplished a great deal for the betterment of engineers and for the good of the profession since its establishment. Here is a brief list of some of the more specific accomplishments:

1. Cooperation with the Indiana State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors on numerous occasions, in enforcing the provisions of the registration act, has resulted in its general recognition and acceptance.

2. Legislation in behalf of engineers sponsored by the society has been successful in most cases.

3. A code of ethics has been promulgated, adopted, and published.

4. A year book has been published and distributed.

5. A society magazine has been published and distributed.

6. Appointment of qualified engineers to various public boards and committees has been a result of I.S.P.E. cooperation.

The Indiana Society of Professional Engineers has never lacked enthusiasm, been without able and hard working officers, directors and committeemen, nor suffered greatly from lack of funds. The scope of its activities could be greatly extended and its membership increased from the ranks of eligible registered professional engineers.

There are approximately 1,800 resident registered engineers in the state. With an active and aggressive membership in the society of at least 80 per cent of the registered engineers in the state, backed by an able, fast growing, and hard working National Society, the strength of the Indiana Society of Professional Engineers, and its potentialities for furthering the professional status of engineers in Indiana would be unlimited.

Extension of registration, passage of much needed legislation, attainment of a greater voice in civic affairs, improvement in economic conditions and enhancement of prestige are just a few of the things needed by the profession. Lack of unity of effort in the past has prevented full attainment of these objectives. The Indiana Society of Professional Engineers is the agency to provide this needed unity of effort. *Individual cooperation through membership in the society will assure a united front.*